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Advice Fishing Hobo Style - Rods and Reels (self.vagabond)

submitted 17 hours ago * by [huckstah](#) [Trainhopper](#) / [Hitchhiker](#)

Rods & Reels

There are various types of fishing kits that is portable enough to carry with you on the road, and it's up to you to figure out what works for use.

- [Telescoping Rod/Reel Combo](#)

This the ideal rod/reel combo for a hobo that has a few bucks to spend on gear. Sure, fishing with a bottle or hobo reel (read below) can and does work, but it certainly isn't as easy and effective as having a good rod and reel combo.

Telescoping rods are very compact, affordable, and very lightweight. I don't even bother with the case they usually come in, as I just wrap a towel around the rod/reel, and stuff it down inside my backpack, or simply strap it to the side of my pack.

Also remember that a reel is NOT absolutely necessary, and if

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having a reel is too much for you to pack, simply use the telescoping rod just like you would use a cane pole or stick rod.

- [Break-Down Rod/Reel Combo](#)

Break-Down kits are usually priced the same as telescoping kits, slightly more expensive, and take up the same amount of space weight. However, Break-Down kits are generally better quality and longer-lasting than telescoping kits, simply because of their design. If you want quality with portability, the Break-Down kit is an excellent option, and this is personally the kit I have used for the last 3 years of fishing.

Once again, just like a telescoping kit, you do NOT have to carry a reel with you. This can easily serve as a cane pole or stick rod.

- [Pen Rod/Reel Combo](#)

For a rod/reel combo, you can't get anymore compact and light-weight than a Pen Rod. These are essentially a miniaturized version of the a typical telescoping rod. Pen rods are extremely cheap, and obviously very light-weight. However, since they are so cheap and so small, you are sacrificing alot of quality. These pen rods are great for emergency fishing situations, but they are generally not very durable or long-lasting, hence their size and price. You'll also be limited to how far you can actually cast, simply because you are limited on the amount of line you can put on these small kits.

- [Cane/Stick Pole Rod](#)

Stick Pole fishing, commonly known as cane pole fishing, is among the most ancient forms of fishing in human civilization, and

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is still popularly used to this day!

This is by far the cheapest way to fish, as all you really need to do is find a long stick (10 feet or longer, ideally) and simply tie your string/line to the end of the stick. How much string you add will determine how far you can cast, but ultimately you will be limited to how far you can cast no matter how much line you add. On average, 20-25 feet is typically the longest you'll be able to cast with a typical stick or cane pole rod.

Also, stick/cane poles work best when fishing ponds, or slow moving streams, not swift-running creeks or large rivers. They don't have great casting ability, nor any sort of reeling ability, so they are ideal in ponds or very slow/calm water.

Cane poles are also great when fishing with a bobber/floater, combined with using live or dead bait, such as an earthworm, grasshopper, chicken liver, etc.

Cane poles are also great for fishing along shallow banks, where bluegill, crappie, and bass like to hide in the weeds/grass.

- [Hobo Reel](#)

If you happen to have carpentry/woodcrafting skills, a hobo reel is a great alternative to using the convention rod/pole method of fishing.

However, you are really limiting your ability to cast when using one of these. It takes a LOT of practice to effectively learn how to decent cast with these. Having said that, definitely spend a few hours learning and perfecting your cast before you expect to do any decent fishing with this.

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- [Bottle Reel](#)

In terms of hobo fishing, this is by FAR the cheapest and laziest form of fishing that's possible. Simply buy a bottle of water, or even better, dig through the nearest trash can, and get an empty bottle. Secure your string by tying it to the upper part of the bottle (just below the lid), wrap the rest of your line around the fat/thickest part of the bottle. Just cast it out like you would do with a Hobo Reel, and get ready to reel in by wrapping the line back around the bottle in reverse.

Once again, just like a Hobo Reel, it takes alot of practice to learn how to cast this successfully, and this is by no means an ideal method of fishing. However, it will work, and with a little practice and patience, a simple bottle can easily catch a fish just as good as any other pole or reel.

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[-] **rachel1787** 1 point 12 hours ago

Thank you for this guide, and the one for bait. I am not part of the vagabond lifestyle however I find it fascinating and I have family members who are. If you haven't already can you make a guide on how to clean/cook the fish you catch?

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[-] **huckstah** **Trainhopper / Hitchhiker** **S** 3 points 11 hours ago

Absolutely! I was thinking of writing one myself, but I totally welcome you to make one and submit it to us, as it would take alot of work off my shoulders while I'm already traveling! Feel Free!

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[-] **rachel1787** 1 point 12 hours ago

And I just read the other articles as well. They are all very good and informative. Thank you again
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